II. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING

i. Receipt of nominations for election to the Maharaja's Technological Institute.
ii. For Election to the Maharaja's College Advisory Committee.

Mr. President: I have to announce that nominations on behalf of the Hon'ble Members have been received for the election of a Member to the Maharaja's College Technological Institute Advisory Board:

Mr. P. K. Paul
Mr. P. Kumaran Exhuthassan
Mr. K. S. Panicker

For the election of a Member to the Maharaja's College Advisory Committee, nominations from the following Hon'ble Members have been received:

Mr. K. K. Kannan
Mr. P. A. Mohamed Ashroff
Mr. R. S. Thevanna Gounder

The elections will be conducted at 5 O'clock this afternoon.

III. BILLS (OFFICIAL,) (cont.)

(i) The Cochin Panchayats Act (Amendment) Bill

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):* I move that the Cochin Panchayats Act (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration and finally passed.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I second it. But I have to bring to the notice of the President that a very slight amendment is necessary on account of the introduction of the word "laundries" yesterday. I move that the word "and" between the words "admission" and "service" may be changed into "or".

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government):* I second it.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* The section as amended would be "The Panchayat may with the previous approval of the Director notify that no place within the limits of the Panchayat area shall be used for any of the purposes specified in the rules made in this behalf without a licence issued by the Panchayat which shall be renewed every year and except in accordance with the conditions specified in such licence, and where the licence is for keeping hotels, restaurants, eating houses, coffee houses, boarding houses, laundries or running barber saloons, the licence shall always contain and be deemed to contain a condition that admission or service therein shall not be denied or restricted to any person on the ground that he belongs to a paticular caste or creed".

Amendment put and carried

(ii) The Cochin Municipal Act (Amendment) Bill

The motion that the Bill be taken up and finally passed, was put and carried.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Minister for Public Works):* I move that the Cochin Municipal Act (Amendment) Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I second it. Sir, the amendment to this will also be to the same effect, that is, before the word "service" instead of the word "and", the word "or" pay be substituted.

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government):* I second it.

Amendment put and carried

IV. BILLS (NON-OFFICIAL)

(i) The Cochin Verumpattamdar's Act (Amendment) bill

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur Tattamangalam):* Sir, I beg to move that the Verumpattamdars Act (Amendment) Bill be read in Council.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* I second it.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Sir, when the prices of the agricultural products were low, the articles were selling at a low price. Now the prices have increased four or five-fold. All the gain is enjoyed by the tenant alone. That is why this Bill is introduced, for the sake of the landlords to take a share in the gain enjooyed by the tenant.

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Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* The policy that has been adopted by the Government in respect of the several Amending Bills which came up for consideration before this House during the last session has been to take wholesale view of all these Amending Bills and then come to certain definite conclusions on them so that something in the nature of a finality may be achieved. All these Bills are being considered by a Select Committee and the House kindly agreed to refer all such Bills to the Select Committee including the mover of the respective Bills. Consistent with that policy and without any commitment as to whether the principle of the Bill is accepted or not, the Government have no objection to follow that course. The main object of the Bill is that because there is a provision in the Verumpattamdar's Act with regard to cocoanut, by which the market price can be calculated; in respect of other agricultural products also the same principle should apply, as for example in the csse of ground-nut sugar-cane, etc. This principle, no doubt, is very consistent with the other position and it is a matter again open to consideration. There are motions even for that clause relating to cocoanut pattam to be omitted and this cannot be considered in isolation. Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan's Bill seeks for the abolition of the system of calculation of the price of cocoanut. We shall consider all these in the Select Committee. In that view, I do not oppose and that too without any commitment on the part of the Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, the Hon'ble Advocate-General with a preface emphasised thrice 'without any commitment on the part of the Government' and suggested the course of sending this Bill also to the already cumbersomely working Select Committee on the Verumpattamdars Act (Amendment) Bill. As many as four in number are already with them, the consideration of most of which has been gone into and not much remains to be done as far as those four Bills are concerned. True, Sir, that one of those Bills standing in my name contains a provision for the abolition of the provisions of section 6, clause 3. According to my lights, a thing that has to be got done as early as possible, if possible in the next session itself because of the monstrosity of the existence of that provision in that Act which was not in the original draft Bill in 1117, which was not in the Select Committee Report in 1118. It was introduced for very particular reasons as a Government amendment which began to work havoc from the very day on which it found its place and as a consequence of that havoc. I believe, two amendments to that Government amendment that crept in were sponsored, one by one of our former Deputy Presidents who is not in this Council today, and the other by the then Deputy President, our esteemed friend the present Minister for Public Works, and as a matter of compromise between these two, the ex-Deputy President's Bill and the other Deputy President's Bill, we have on the statute book the latest amendment on this section which again is attempted to be further amended by my attempt for removing it altogether, just sending it to any other area beyond the farthest limits of Cochin. Another amendment by my esteemed friend from Cranganur, who, working out a piece of mathematics has proposed in his bill with regard to the average price instead of that being 20 years' average, a sum of Rs. 4—8—0, and this is another attempt on the part of my elder brother, the Hon'ble Member for Chittur, to send up these items also into the category of cocoanuts and get the same fate, rather, the benefit of the cocoanuts. It is concieved in that way.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* When cocoanut goes, this will also go.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Thank you for the opinion. And all the cocoanuts have almost left the State because of our activities. That apart. The Bill seeks to put all these items also into that category and protect them along with cocoanut and as now suggested by the Hon'ble Member, the sponsor of the Bill, if cocoanuts find the fate in which I find the cocoanuts now, it will at least come down to my friend's level of Rs. 4—8—0. Whatever, it is, that is a laudable idea viewed from a standpoint. But viewed from an agriculturist's standpoint, any man who has studied the proposition of the agriculturist in the State, whether he is engaged in the cultivation of groundnut which I refuse to call as agriculture, that it is but money making, money crop.....

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* What is a money crop and what is the other crop?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Crops mean what we get during certain seasons of the year. In a sense groundnut cannot be bracketed with real regular agriculture. Persons who know the cultivation of the groundnut, what follows after cultivation comparing it with what is the fate of the well-known recognised agriculture, namely paddy will I believe

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admit that I am justified in saying that I am not prepared to bracket it with agriculture of that sort. Still it is agriculture, it can be called so. Other things are also mentioned here. So my submission, Sir, is although the suggestion of the Hon'ble Member is a move to go along the line of least resistence which he thrice stressed "without commitment" and the suggestion here if that other clause goes, this will also goes, if that contingency happens, I pray and I hope it will happen, why a matter which is almost known to be going to die, why there should be a companion in death and that to be put in there by my esteemed friend from Chittur. With the almost guarantee of death why give the drowning man a companion is the question? He is not going to be benefited. On the other hand, this will be a drag upon him—a drowning man when he comes into contact with a weighty body, both of them have greater opportunities of going down earlier than otherwise. I do not think for that reason this bill need be sent to the Select Committee. I submit that this is a bill which has to be given its desserts at the proper time and my respectful submission is its fate must be one of getting its death not in the company of the other comrades in the Select Committee but independently on its own merits, instantly, here and now. I have done.

Mr. K. T. Achyuthan *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* Sir, at this stage we don't oppose this bill. At the same time we are not committing with regard to the principles contained therein. It is only in the Select Committee that the different aspects of this bill can be considered, and a conclusion formed as to what will be the fate of the bill. At this stage we don't oppose it.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* I am amenable to the suggestion that the bill may go to the Select Committee.

Motion put and carried

Secretary to the Council: The title of the Bill is Cochin Verumpattomdars Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I move that this bill may be referred to the same Select Committee which is considering the other Verumpattomdars Act (Amendment) Bills of Messrs. V.R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan and M. K. Verghese with the inclusion of the mover of this bill. The names of the members of the Select Committee for this bill are Messrs. A. Eachara Menon, V. R Krishnan Ezhuthassan, L. M. Pylee, M. K. Verghese, C. N. Ittiravi Namboodiri, P. Mani P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan, K. I. Velayudhan, K. Balakrishna Menon, Advocate-General and the Minister for Revenue.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Irinjalakkuda):* I support it.

Motion put and carried

(ii) The Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill

Mr. Puthur Achutha Menon *(Kattur):* I move that the Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill be read in Council.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* I second it.

Mr. Puthur Achutha Menon *(Kattur):* Sir, I do not think a lengthy speech is necessary on this bill at this stage. Many members of this House are quite familiar with the provisions of this bill. This bill has a long and chequered history in this State itself. In 1116 or so, 6 years back this Bill was introduced by me in this Council and it was referred to a Select Committee for consideration. Many of the Hon'ble Members are familiar with the provisions of the bill as amended by the Select Committee which set by the purpose but I could not push on with the bill as I was out of the council by the time the Select Committee report was ready. The Government of Cochin have extended their hands of help to many sections of labour of the State except this particular section. There are quite a large number of workers working in shops and commercirl establishments, restaurants, and eating houses in the State. For the past so many years there has been constant agitations from these workers that they must also be given some sort of relief by the Government. A resolution was moved in this council itself and afterwards a bill was moved and I am glad to inform this House that the Hon'ble Member, the then President of Chamber of Commerce of the State Mr. Govinda Pai, accepted the principles of this Bill. The principle of this Bill is quite simple. Such a legislation is now available in many parts of British India. My Bill as can be seen is practically a copy with slight atteration of the Bombay Bill which is in force in Bombay from 1939 onwards. Sir, a cry is altempted to be raised that there will be practical difficulty if this bill is introduced in all parts of the State. So, if you refer to my bill you will find that my suggestion is that this bill must come into force in Mattancheri, Ernakulam and Trichur in the first instance and the Government may afterwards

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